

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1030

Short Title: ROPE Scholars Pilot Program.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Dalton.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 21, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A
FRAMEWORK FOR A REACHING ONES POTENTIAL FOR EXCELLENCE
(ROPE) SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The State Board of Education, in cooperation with The University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges, shall develop a framework for a Reaching Ones Potential for Excellence (ROPE) Scholars Program. The purpose of the ROPE Scholars Pilot Program shall be (i) to strengthen middle grades education in order to provide students with the opportunity to graduate from high school with the core academic skills needed for postsecondary education and high-skilled employment, and (ii) thereby to reduce the high school dropout rate, increase high school and college graduation rates, and decrease the need for remediation in institutions of higher education.

The framework for the ROPE Scholars Program shall require participating schools to have or be afforded access to high speed, broadband Internet resources and to use SAS EVAAS (Education Value Added Assessment System) or a comparable software system to track student attainment.

SECTION 1.(b) It is the intent of the ROPE Scholars Program to:

- (1) Reduce class size to one teacher to every 17 students;
- (2) Provide annual salary increments of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per year to teachers certified in the fields of mathematics, science, or special education;
- (3) Provide a coordinator position at each participating school to assist in community and parental support;
- (4) Encourage students participating in the program, through agreements executed between the local school administrative unit and students and their parents or guardians, to:
 - a. Maintain a 95% attendance rate each year;

- 1 b. Achieve a minimum of a "B" average;
2 c. Take the PSAT Test and the SAT Test or the ACT Test and
3 achieve an adequate score, as determined by the State Board of
4 Education;
5 d. Meet the standards for admission established by the Board of
6 Governors of The University of North Carolina;
7 e. Engage in community service work each month during the
8 school year for the number of hours determined by the State
9 Board of Education; and
10 f. Evidence good character by not engaging in unlawful conduct.
11 (5) Provide students who successfully participate in the program with
12 college scholarships.

13 **SECTION 1.(c)** The State Board of Education shall develop a competitive
14 process through which units may apply to participate in the pilot program. The number
15 of participating units shall be limited to three units in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The
16 units selected shall be from different geographical areas of the State and shall include at
17 least one urban and one rural unit.

18 **SECTION 1.(d)** The State Board of Education shall develop a process to
19 evaluate the effectiveness of the Program.

20 **SECTION 1.(e)** The State Board of Education shall deliver a draft proposed
21 framework to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by October 15,
22 2007, and a final proposal to the same committee by December 15, 2007. The report
23 shall include the cost of implementing the pilot program and shall indicate the State
24 laws, rules, and policies that would preclude the implementation of the pilot.

25 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.